AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(1)(i), Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner replace paragraph [0031] of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2006/025211 A1 to Gregory *et al.* with the paragraph listed below. Appendix A contains a marked-up version of replacement paragraph [0031].

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(1)(iii), replacement paragraph [0031] reads:

> [0031] As mentioned above, biliverdin reductase is an enzyme responsible for the conversion of biliverdin to bilirubin. Therefore, by contacting biological samples with biliverdin reductase, any biliverdin present in the sample should be converted to bilirubin, thus allowing one of skill in the art to measure the amount of biliverdin present in the sample by measuring the change in absorbance at about 325 to about 750 nm. For example, wavelengths of about 325, 350, 375, 400, 425, 450, 475, 500, 525, 550, 575, 600, 625, 650, 675, 700, 725 and 750 can be utilized. One of skill in the art can utilize any wavelength between about 325 nm and 750 nm that results in changes in absorbance corresponding to the measurement of biliverdin concentration or bilirubin production. For instance, as set forth in the Examples herein, at certain wavelengths, one of skill in the art will observe an increase in absorption that corresponds to increased bilirubin production. At other wavelengths, one of skill in the art will observe decreased absorption corresponding to decreased biliverdin concentrations. Biliverdin reductase can be obtained from commercial sources such as ICN Biochemicals or the enzyme can be cloned and produced by standard recombinant methods as described in the Examples herein. The biliverdin reductase can be from rat, mouse, human or other mammalian origin. One of skill in the art can determine the specific activity of a recombinant biliverdin reductase preparation as well as the concentration of biliverdin reductase necessary for conversion of biliverdin to bilirubin. The preparation can be such that no other bacterial proteins or other contaminants are present in the preparation or the preparation can be purified such that all or most bacterial proteins are removed.